

The Environment

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I am a strong advocate of environmental responsibility and policies to revitalize the environmental heritage of the Great Lakes.

As an advocate for the permanent ban on Great Lakes drilling, an end to diversions of Great Lakes water, I have supported policies to maximize the environmental legacy of our region.

While the Southwest and West confront a water crisis, the Great Lakes must protect and promote our abundant supply of fresh water.

Ninth Congressional District

The Ninth Congressional district stretches across the largest coastal district in Ohio which spans 4 of Ohio's coastal counties.

The area has been located in the Black Swamp region for thousands of years.

Celebrating the rich history of Ohio's marshland, the district is home to Ohio's only federally designated wildlife refuge, the [Ottawa Wildlife Refuge](#) .

This refuge and much of the district is located at the intersection of the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways, the site for a biennial migration for birds that travel every spring and fall between North and South America.

Environmental Stewardship

For the last decade, I have been leading an effort known as the [Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership](#).

This partnership has created a regional collaboration where the various federal, state and local governments are negotiating a plan for restoring the watershed.

By planning at the watershed level, governments and nonprofits leverage dollars more effectively, planning with the strategies of their partners at the same table.

While Lake Erie has a long way to go, this partnership has formalized the process for highlighting the natural wonders of Ohio's North Coast.

[Great Lakes Restoration](#)

With tens of millions of people relying on the water resource of the Great Lakes and a \$5 – 7 billion recreational fishing industry in the region, the economic benefits of restoring the integrity of the lakes are unending.

Click [here](#) to learn more about restoration in our area.

[Gulf Coast Cleanup](#)

The BP oil spill along the Gulf Coast is one of the worst ecological disasters in our nation's history, exceeding the Exxon Valdez spill in the late 1980's in both economic and ecological damages.

Click [here](#) to read more about efforts to clean up the Gulf Coast.

Wildlife Heritage

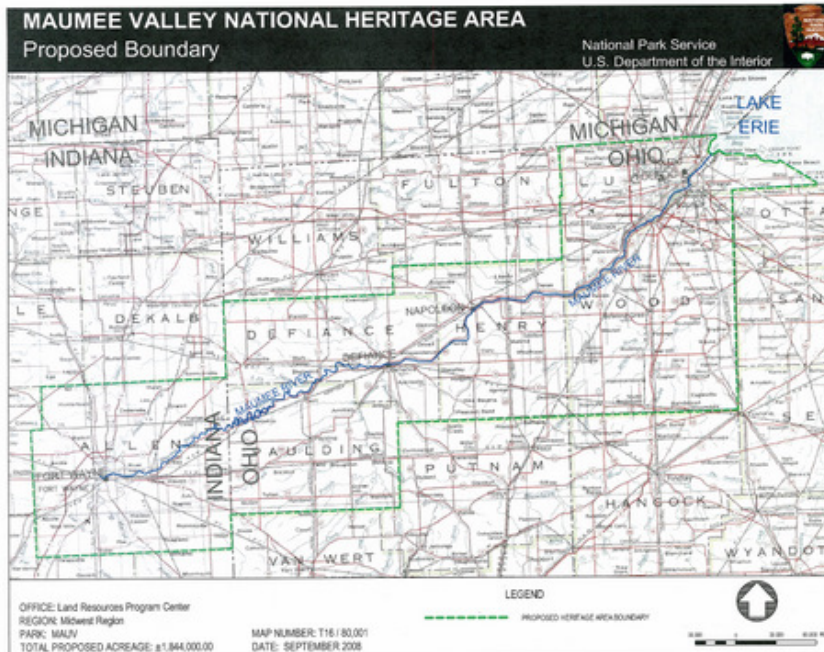
With sensitive environmental habitat across the Ninth Congressional District, I have been working for decades to showcase the environmental heritage of the district.

In 2003, John Dingell and I shepherded the passage of HR 289, the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The legislation expanded this international and bi state refuge system.

I continue to secure federal dollars to construct the [Ottawa Wildlife Refuge Complex](#) , acquire land for the refuge, create the [Fallen Timbers Battlefield Monument](#) and support restoration of the [Perry's Victory Monument](#)

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As a staunch supporter of heritage tourism, I have introduced HR 6040 to establish the Maumee Valley National Heritage Area in Ohio and Indiana, directing the National Park Service to highlight the unique history surrounding the 100 years of conflict and settlement of this region.



Click on the map above for an enlarged view of the boundary of the proposed Maumee Valley National Heritage Area.

Click [here](#) for information about the Bald Eagle's comeback to Ohio.

Legislation I Have Introduced and Cosponsored

[HR 6040, Maumee Valley National Heritage Area Act](#)

[HR 3518, Waterfront Brownfields Revitalization Act](#)

[HR 1136, Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act of 2009](#)

[HR 500, Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act](#)

[HR 1326, Great Ape Protection Act of 2009](#)

[HR 1925, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009](#)